

IN THE COURT OF APPEALS OF MARYLAND
ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER CREATING PROFESSIONALISM COMMISSION

WHEREAS, Throughout the 1990s, members of the Maryland Bench and Bar had become increasingly aware of issues and repercussions of unprofessional behavior by lawyers, which spurred adoption of civility codes and, since 1992, a mandate for the Professionalism Course for New Admittees to the Bar; and

WHEREAS, The Conference of Chief Justices in 1996 adopted a resolution which called for a study of lawyer professionalism and encouraged the appellate court of highest jurisdiction in each state to take a leadership role in evaluating the contemporary needs of the legal community with respect to lawyer professionalism and coordinating the activities of the bench and bar by establishing a Commission on Professionalism; and

WHEREAS, By Order dated April 25, 2002, a Professionalism Task Force was established to study the concept of professionalism within the Maryland bench and bar and to identify the qualities of, and a consensus as to, professionalism; and

WHEREAS, The Task Force has completed its work and, among other proposals, recommended the establishment of a Professionalism Commission; and

WHEREAS, On November 10, 2003, the Court of Appeals adopted the recommendation to establish a Professionalism Commission;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Robert M. Bell, Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals and administrative head of the Judicial Branch, pursuant to the authority conferred by Article IV, § 18 of the Constitution, do hereby order this _day of _____, 2004, effective immediately:

1. Creation. There is a Court Commission on Professionalism.

2. Members.

a. Commission. The Commission shall consist of the following members:

(i) The Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals or a designee of the Chief Judge, as the Chair;

(ii) The Chief Judge of the Court of Special Appeals or a designee of the Chief Judge;

(iii) The Chair of the Conference of Circuit Judges or a designee of the Chair;

(iv) The Chief Judge of the District Court or a designee of the Chief Judge;

(v) A judge from the United States District Court for Maryland, designated by that Court;

(vi) The Dean of each of the accredited law schools in Maryland or a designee of the Dean;

(vii) A lawyer representative from each Maryland County and Baltimore City, appointed by the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals;

(viii) The president of the Maryland State Bar Association, Inc. or the president's designee;

(ix) A representative from the Attorney Grievance Commission, appointed by the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals;

(x) A representative from the Standing Committee on Rules of Practice and Procedure, appointed by the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals;

(xi) A representative from the Judicial Disabilities Commission, appointed by the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals; and

(xii) A reporter, appointed by the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals.

b. Advisors. To the extent provided in the Judiciary's budget, the Commission may invite others to provide advice to, or otherwise participate in, the Commission's work, through invitations to public fora, appointment to subcommittees or assignment of specific

tasks such as statistical and academic research.

c. Compensation. The members and advisors are not entitled to compensation but, to the extent provided in the Judiciary's budget, may be reimbursed for expenses in connection with travel related to the work of the Commission.

3. Meetings.

a. Scheduling. The Commission shall meet at the call of the Chair.

b. Quorum. A majority of the authorized membership of the Commission shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

4. Functions.

a. Purposes. The primary tasks of the Commission are to develop a consensus about the definition of professionalism, to examine ways to promote professionalism among Maryland lawyers, and to provide sustained attention and assistance to the task of ensuring that the practice of law remains a high calling, enlisted in the service of client and public good.

b. Mission. The mission of the Commission is to support and encourage members of the Judiciary to exhibit the highest levels of professionalism and to support and encourage lawyers to exercise the highest levels of professional integrity in their relationships with their clients, other lawyers, the courts, and the public and to fulfill their obligations to improve the law and the legal system and to ensure access to that system.

c. Duties. To carry out its purposes, the Commission shall:

(a) Pursue the findings and recommendations of the Professionalism Task Force through appropriate study and development of mechanisms for their furtherance, for adoption by the Court of Appeals;

(b) Develop mechanisms to advance professionalism as an important core value of the legal profession and the legal process;

(c) Act as a clearinghouse for professionalism efforts; and

- (d) Serve a catalyst for positive change; and
- (e) Cultivate the professional community of the Bar.

5. Staff. The Commission shall have the staff assistance assigned by the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals.

6. Authority. The Court Commission on Professionalism has no authority to receive complaints within the province of the Attorney Grievance Commission or the Commission on Judicial Disabilities and shall refer any such complaints received to the appropriate Commission.

7. Rescission of Prior Order. The Order dated April 25, 2002, is rescinded.

Robert M. Bell
Chief Judge
Court of Appeals of Maryland

Filed:

Clerk
Court of Appeals of Maryland

PROFESSIONALISM COMMISSION MEMBERS

The Hon. Lynne A. Battaglia, Court of Appeals, Chair
 The Hon. James P. Salmon, Court of Special Appeals
 The Hon. Dennis M. Sweeney, Circuit Court
 The Hon. Jeannie Hong, District Court
 Designee, U.S. District Court for Maryland
 Professor Abe Dash, University of Maryland Law School
 Byron Warnken, University of Baltimore Law School
 President of the Maryland State Bar Association, or a designee
 Linda H. Lamone, Esq. Attorney Grievance Commission
 Deborah Lynne Potter, Esq. Rules Committee
 The Hon. Sally Adkins, Judicial Disabilities Commission
 Norman L. Smith, Esq., Reporter

County	Name
Allegany County	Nicholas J. Monteleone
Anne Arundel County	Rignal W. Baldwin, Jr.
Baltimore City	Dwight W. Stone, II
Baltimore County	Dana O. Williams
Calvert County	Laurence W. B. Cumberland
Caroline County	Robert J. Greenleaf
Carroll County	Charles "Mike" Preston
Cecil County	Shelly J. Capano
Charles County	Danny R. Seidman
Dorchester County	Michelle Barnes
Frederick County	Thomas E. Lynch, III
Garrett County	Master Daryl T. Walters
Harford County	Master Cornelius Helfrich
Howard County	Linda Sorg Ostovitz
Kent County	C. Daniel Saunders
Montgomery County	Karen Federman-Henry
Prince George's County	Felecia Love Greer
Queen Anne's County	Donald J. Braden
St. Mary's County	David W. Densford
Somerset County	Kristy D. Hickman
Talbot County	Michael Francis O'Connor
Washington County	William P. Young, Jr.
Wicomico County	James L. Otway
Worcester County	William Hudson